

App. No. 10/707,473
Amendment dated April 2 2006 (accompanying RCE)
Reply to Office action of December 1, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A shoe comprising:

a sole;

an upper defining a quarter, a collar, and a vamp having a toe cap, said quarter being permanently attached to said sole and only unilaterally continuous with said vamp, said vamp being split from and extended to overlap said quarter down one side of said upper, from the collar to the sole, and said upper being horizontally split along said sole starting in a start position on the vamp in the area for the ball of the big toe, running along the toe cap, and reaching, in an end position, to where the vamp is split from the quarter, said upper being made of a flexible material therein ~~structured so that when said vamp is open off said sole, said shoe may be stepped into without obstructing the wearer's foot;~~

a zipper provided along said horizontal split, extending from the start to the end position, such that said zipper lies substantially in only a single plane, said zipper and having a pull-tab functioning to close the split between the vamp and the quarter;

a first hook-and-pile fastener provided on said pull-tab; and

a second hook-and-pile fastener complementary to said first hook-and-pile fastener, provided on said quarter alongside where said vamp splits from said quarter; the shoe therein structured so that

App. No. 10/707,473
Amendment dated April 2 2006 (accompanying RCE)
Reply to Office action of December 1, 2005

said vamp falls open under its own weight when unzipped off said sole,
so that the shoe may be stepped into without obstructing the wearer's foot,
and
the shoe can be fastened securely onto the wear's foot in a single-stroke, in-
plane operation of zipping said vamp from the start position onto the sole to close
said vamp over the wearer's foot, and on reaching the end position, closing the pull-
tab onto said quarter to engage said first and second hook-and-pile fasteners,
thereby closing said vamp completely onto said quarter along the split therebetween,
without zipping in any direction orthogonal or oblique to said single plane in which
said zipper lies.

Claim 2 (currently amended): A shoe comprising:

a sole;

an upper defining a quarter, a collar, and a vamp having a toe cap, said quarter being permanently attached to said sole and only unilaterally continuous with said vamp, said vamp being split from said quarter down one side of said upper, from the collar to the sole, and said upper being horizontally split along said sole starting in a start position on the vamp in the area for the ball of the big toe, running along the toe cap, and reaching, in an end position, to where the vamp is split from the quarter, said upper being made of a flexible material ~~therein structured so that when said vamp is open off said sole, said shoe may be stepped into without obstructing the wearer's foot;~~

a zipper provided along said horizontal split, extending from the start to the end position, such that said zipper lies substantially in only a single plane, said

App. No. 10/707,473
Amendment dated April 2 2006 (accompanying RCE)
Reply to Office action of December 1, 2005

zipper and having a pull-tab functioning to close the split between the vamp and the quarter;

a first hook-and-pile fastener provided on said pull-tab; and

second and third hook-and-pile fasteners, said second hook-and-pile fastener being complementary to said first and third hook-and-pile fasteners, and provided on said quarter alongside where said vamp splits from said quarter, and said third hook-and-pile fastener being provided extending from said vamp, for overlying said second hook-and-pile fastener[[:]], whereby said first hook-and-pile fastener and said third hook-and-pile fastener are fastenable to said second hook-and-pile fastener to close said vamp onto said quarter; the shoe therein structured so that

said vamp falls open under its own weight when unzipped off said sole,

so that the shoe may be stepped into without obstructing the wearer's foot,

and

the shoe can be fastened securely onto the wear's foot in a single-stroke, in-plane operation of zipping said vamp from the start position onto the sole to close said vamp over the wearer's foot, whereby said third hook-and-pile fastener engagingly overlies said second hook-and-pile fastener, and on reaching the end position closing the pull-tab onto said quarter to engage said first and second hook-and-pile fasteners, thereby closing said vamp completely onto said quarter along the split therebetween, without zipping in any direction orthogonal or oblique to said single plane in which said zipper lies.

Claim 3 (currently amended): A shoe for the elderly and disabled, the shoe comprising:

App. No. 10/707,473
Amendment dated April 2 2006 (accompanying RCE)
Reply to Office action of December 1, 2005

a sole defining a heel area and a toe area, said toe area being thinner to the extent possible than the heel area;

an upper defining a quarter, a collar, and a vamp having a toe cap, said quarter being permanently attached to said sole and only unilaterally continuous with said vamp, said vamp being split from said quarter down one side of said upper, from the collar to the sole, and said upper being horizontally split along said sole starting in a start position on the vamp in the area for the ball of the big toe, running along the toe cap, and reaching, in an end position, to where the vamp is split from the quarter, said upper being made of a flexible material ~~therein structured so that when said vamp is open off said sole, said shoe may be stepped into without obstructing the wearer's foot;~~

a zipper provided along said horizontal split, extending from the start to the end position, such that said zipper lies substantially in only a single plane, said zipper and having a pull-tab functioning to close the split between the vamp and the quarter;

a first hook-and-pile fastener provided on said pull-tab; and

second and third hook-and-pile fasteners, said second hook-and-pile fastener being complementary to said first and third hook-and-pile fasteners, and provided on said quarter alongside where said vamp splits from said quarter, and said third hook-and-pile fastener being provided extending from said vamp, for overlying said second hook-and-pile fastener[[:]] whereby said first hook-and-pile fastener and said third hook-and-pile fastener are fastenable to said second hook-and-pile fastener to close said vamp onto said quarter; the shoe therein structured so that

App. No. 10/707,473
Amendment dated April 2 2006 (accompanying RCE)
Reply to Office action of December 1, 2005

said vamp falls open under its own weight when unzipped off said sole,
so that the shoe may be stepped into without obstructing the wearer's foot,
and
the shoe can be fastened securely onto the wear's foot in a single-stroke, in-
plane operation of zipping said vamp from the start position onto the sole to close
said vamp over the wearer's foot, whereby said third hook-and-pile fastener
engagingly overlies said second hook-and-pile fastener, and on reaching the end
position closing the pull-tab onto said quarter to engage said first and second hook-
and-pile fasteners, thereby closing said vamp completely onto said quarter along the
split therebetween, without zipping in any direction orthogonal or oblique to said
single plane in which said zipper lies.

Claim 4 (original): A shoe as set forth in claim 1, wherein said upper is made of a composite material composed of polychloroprene rubber foam to at least one side of which a synthetic fabric is laminated.

Claim 5 (original): A shoe as set forth in claim 2, wherein said upper is made of a composite material composed of polychloroprene rubber foam to at least one side of which a synthetic fabric is laminated.

Claim 6 (original): A shoe as set forth in claim 3, wherein said upper is made of a composite material composed of polychloroprene rubber foam to at least one side of which a synthetic fabric is laminated.

Claim 7 (original): A shoe as set forth in claim 1, further comprising an insole, said insole including:

App. No. 10/707,473
Amendment dated April 2 2006 (accompanying RCE)
Reply to Office action of December 1, 2005

an insole core made of a hard plastic material, said insole core along its underside having a heel area gently sloping rearward, said insole core therein being slightly thicker in its rearward portion; and

an insole cover made of a washable fabric and removable from said insole core.

Claim 8 (original): A shoe as set forth in claim 2, further comprising an insole, said insole including:

an insole core made of a hard plastic material, said insole core along its underside having a heel area gently sloping rearward, said insole core therein being slightly thicker in its rearward portion; and

an insole cover made of a washable fabric and removable from said insole core.

Claim 9 (original): A shoe as set forth in claim 3, further comprising an insole, said insole including:

an insole core made of a hard plastic material, said insole core along its underside having a heel area gently sloping rearward, said insole core therein being slightly thicker in its rearward portion; and

an insole cover made of a washable fabric and removable from said insole core.

Claim 10 (original): A shoe as set forth in claim 1, wherein said zipper has a water resistance of 0.01 kgf/cm² or greater.

Claim 11 (original): A shoe as set forth in claim 2, wherein said zipper has a water resistance of 0.01 kgf/cm² or greater.

App. No. 10/707,473
Amendment dated April 2 2006 (accompanying RCE)
Reply to Office action of December 1, 2005

a second hook-and-pile fastener is provided on a heel-side-portion surface
~~corresponding to~~ for receiving the first hook-and-pile fastener; wherein
at the finish of a single-stroke, in-plane operation of closing the slide fastener,
the second hook-and-pile fastener on the heel side portion, the third hook-
and-pile fastener on the split-away part of the upper, and the first hook-and-
pile fastener on the slide fastener pull-tab fasten together to close the heel
side portion completely onto the upper, whereby the shoe is fastened securely
onto the wear's foot.